

BR 1-665 N&S Carrying U.S. 13 over Baylor Blvd
Contract T201107401
Public Information Meeting Summary

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) held a Public Information Meeting on Monday July 8, 2013, at the Howard J. Weston Community Center from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information about upcoming construction on I-295 Southbound, and U.S. 13 just south of the I-295 overpass. Twenty-four (24) members of the public and governmental officials from other agencies attended. The meeting was held as an “open house”, and staff members provided information and answered questions. Information was displayed on presentation boards.

It was explained that both projects will be ongoing concurrently and will involve lane restrictions and occasional ramp detours. Both projects are expected to begin in early 2014 and be completed in late 2015. The U.S. 13 project involves two primary objectives. The first objective is the installation of a tunnel under U.S. 13 to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The tunnel is part of a recreational trail under development to connect Wilmington with the City of New Castle. The second objective is the removal of the existing bridge and reconstruction of U.S. 13. Three lanes of traffic will be maintained at all times during construction on U.S. 13 with the exception of two weekend road closures with detours.

Southbound I-295 will be reconstructed between SR9 and I-95 as part of a multi-phased project to improve this stretch of roadway and the Farnhurst Interchange. Work will include removal of five bridges, replacement of the bridge spanning U.S. 13, and several safety improvements to ramps in both directions.

Also presented during the information meeting was the plan and timeline for completion of the New Castle to Wilmington Industrial Track Trail.

Staff members on hand to meet and provide information to the public were:

Bud Freel, DelDOT Public Relations
Jason Hastings, DelDOT Bridge Design Engineer
Steve Richter, DelDOT Project Manager
Mike Angelo, McCormick Taylor
Greg Pawlowski, DRBA Project Engineer
Allison Scott, RK&K
Dave Duzak; Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP

Written comment sheets were available but none were submitted. Some trends in comments were:

- Most people liked the approach of closing over 2 weekends to shorten the overall duration.
- Most liked the idea of synchronizing with the DRBA project to minimize construction time.
- Some questioned removing the bridge and replacing it with a culvert.
- Some questioned the length of time the project will take.
- Explain the detours.
- Don't use Boulden Blvd. as a detour route because it is partially residential.
- Keeping everybody informed throughout construction.

DelDOT Public Relations advertised this meeting through their normal channels. Additionally, approximately 100 notices were sent to property owners along U.S. 13 from SR 141 to I-495. One real estate representative attended on behalf of a commercial property owner.

Project information will be posted on the DelDOT web site soon.